

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE
Week ending the 27th April 1901.

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STATISTICAL PAPERS IN BENGAL

1901

Week ending 10th April 1901

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1. The first part of the report deals with the general statistics of the population of Bengal. It gives the total population, the population of the different districts, and the population of the different towns and cities. It also gives the population of the different religious communities and the different castes and tribes.

2. The second part of the report deals with the statistics of the different occupations and professions. It gives the number of persons engaged in agriculture, the number of persons engaged in commerce and industry, and the number of persons engaged in the different professions and occupations.

3. The third part of the report deals with the statistics of the different educational institutions. It gives the number of schools, colleges, and universities, and the number of students attending these institutions.

4. The fourth part of the report deals with the statistics of the different public works and services. It gives the number of miles of roads, the number of miles of railways, and the number of miles of telegraph lines. It also gives the number of public buildings, the number of public hospitals, and the number of public libraries.

5. The fifth part of the report deals with the statistics of the different public revenue and expenditure. It gives the total public revenue, the total public expenditure, and the different sources of public revenue and expenditure.

6. The sixth part of the report deals with the statistics of the different public health and sanitation. It gives the number of deaths, the number of births, and the number of cases of different diseases. It also gives the number of public health officers, the number of public health inspectors, and the number of public health nurses.

7. The seventh part of the report deals with the statistics of the different public safety and security. It gives the number of crimes, the number of accidents, and the number of cases of different types of public safety and security.

8. The eighth part of the report deals with the statistics of the different public order and discipline. It gives the number of cases of public order and discipline, the number of cases of public safety and security, and the number of cases of public order and discipline.

9. The ninth part of the report deals with the statistics of the different public morality and decency. It gives the number of cases of public morality and decency, the number of cases of public safety and security, and the number of cases of public order and discipline.

10. The tenth part of the report deals with the statistics of the different public education and culture. It gives the number of cases of public education and culture, the number of cases of public safety and security, and the number of cases of public order and discipline.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 15th April says, on the authority of the *Watan* newspaper and *Al Unayad*, a Turkish journal, that somebody has represented to the Sultan that a Turkish Consul ought to be stationed in Calcutta just as there are Turkish Consuls in Madras, Bombay and elsewhere in India, so that the Musalmans of Bengal, who are very numerous, may have such advantages as are possessed by those of Madras and Bombay. The man also prays that the Urdu language may be taught in the technical college which has been opened at Constantinople in commemoration of the Sultan's Silver Jubilee. He has assured the Sultan that the Musalmans of Bengal are really his well-wishers, and they are very enthusiastically collecting subscriptions for the Hedjaz Railway. Every Friday prayer is offered by them for the prosperity of the Turkish Empire.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS
HABLUL MATEEN,
April 15th, 1901.

2. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 20th April says that English supremacy is gradually diminishing in Persia. Russian, Belgian and French adventurers are to be seen in all towns and important places of Persia, and the Persian Gulf is overcrowded with European ships and steamers.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 20th, 1901.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th April writes that since the latter part of the year 1899 the number of theft cases has considerably increased in the villages of Batta, Cossipore, Chittulia and Manatia, within the jurisdiction of the Kendua thana. Stolen articles have been sold almost publicly. The *daroga* in charge of the thana has been informed of the fact by a good many people, but to no purpose. The occurrence of thefts almost every night has made the inhabitants extremely uneasy, but the police are inactive. The village of Kendua is only one mile away from the thana. A theft was committed at the house of Babu Kisor Mohan Roy, *talukdar* of Cossipore, in *Falgun* last. As the local police made no enquiry, although they were informed of the fact, the very next day Kisor Babu reported the matter to the Inspector of Netrakona, while he was on a visit to Kendua 3 or 4 days afterwards. The distance between the thana and Kisor Babu's house is a mile or so. However, on the 5th *Chaitra*, the Sub-Inspector paid a visit to Kisor Babu's house and saw the room from which the articles were stolen. Kisor Babu also spoke to the Sub-Inspector about some *budmashes*, and the Sub-Inspector promising to come next day went away without putting any other questions to any one. But he has not yet turned up.

CHARU MIHIR,
April 16th, 1901.

4. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 17th April has learnt from its Chandpur correspondent in the Tippera district that on the day of the *Astami* bathing festival, a European tried to forcibly carry away a native woman from among the crowd which had assembled in the place. But some people rescued the woman and taught the *budmash* a good lesson. The oppression by *budmashes* has made it almost impossible for women to go out of their homes on occasions of religious festivals.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 17th, 1901.

5. A correspondent of the same paper requests the Subdivisional Officer of Ulubaria in the Howrah district to examine the account books of the collecting *panchayats* in the Bagnan thana, and compare the entries made therein with the receipts granted to tax-payers. A sharp eye should be kept on the doings of these *panchayats*. The police from interested motives do not appoint respectable men as collecting *panchayats*, and the men who are now appointed as such commit no end of oppression on the villagers.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

6. The *Meaini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 17th April says that recently there was a theft in the house of Babu Umesh Chandra Basu of Habibpur. The thieves effected their entrance into the house by breaking open a window, and carried away *ghee*,

MEDINI BANDHAV,
April 17th, 1901.

sugar and rice, but were not successful in carrying away any money. There was recently also a dacoity in the house of Babu Sachchidananda Rai of Kuitkota, in which the dacoits, eight or ten in number, severely beat the Babu's wife and children and carried away all the money and valuables they found in the house. The police will probably enter this case in their diary as one of theft. But it was really a case of dacoity. On the night of the theft in the house of Babu Umesh Chandra Basu there were also a number of thefts in other parts of the town. This only shows the inefficiency of the police.

Jyoti,
April 18th, 1901.

7. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 18th April says that Babu Jogendra Chandra Khastagir, a Sub-Inspector of the Salt Department, sent up for trial many persons in the Chittagong district for illicit manufacture of salt, all of whom have been convicted. Such prosecutions sometimes become oppressive. For there are places in the interior of the Chittagong district where any attempt to import salt from Chittagong town and other places would entail such heavy expense as to raise its price to three or four annas per seer. Such high price the poor villagers cannot afford to pay, and that is why they prepare salt in their own houses and pay a certain tax to the local police on account of the manufacture. But this tax only fills the purse of the police officers and never reaches the Government. Nevertheless the poor manufacturers are criminally prosecuted and punished. Government should either provide them with salt at a cheap price, or permit them to prepare salt for themselves on the payment of a salt tax.

Jyoti.

8. The same paper says that the police did nothing to prevent rowdyism and disorderly behaviour on the part of some of the assembled people in the last "Kshetrapal" *mélâ* in the Chittagong district. Many virtuous women had to suffer much at the hands of licentious men. There were many cases of riot also. On the whole the *mélâ* presented a scene of complete lawlessness.

Jyoti.

9. The same paper says that incendiarism has greatly increased in the village of Halisahar in the Chittagong district. *Badmashes* are setting fire to houses almost daily. But the local police is still inactive. Other offences also, such as murder, riot, &c., are rife. Recently a man named Makhub was murdered and buried under the sands on the sea-shore. Some men have been apprehended on suspicion. The case is still under investigation.

Khulna,
April 18th, 1901.

10. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 18th April says that the number of murder cases within the Bagerhat subdivision in the Khulna district is increasing at an alarming rate, and reports the following four cases which occurred there within the last few months:—

- (1) One Munsher Shaik, an inhabitant of village Magra, was recently murdered while passing through a field in village Badkhani, and was left half-buried in a neighbouring marsh. Five men have been apprehended.
- (2) One Tamijaddi Shaik, of the village of Sadullapur, recently murdered his neighbour Mafijaddi Shaik in a neighbouring marsh and there left him buried. The murderer has been apprehended.
- (3) A few months ago a Muhammadan inhabitant of village Hari Khani, murdered one of his neighbours with the help of a few others. The murderers have been let off by the Court of Appeal. This has greatly alarmed the people of the place.
- (4) A few months ago a well-to-do Muhammadan named Kachim Haldar, of village Sonadanga, was murdered in a neighbouring bush. The criminals have been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment.

Sanjivani,
April 18th, 1901.

11. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th April says that Osman Ali, Sub-Inspector of Police, Noakhali, was first appointed a Sub-Inspector twelve years ago, and was posted to the Charsiddhi outpost in that district. He was in Charsiddhi for some years and then eighteen days in Lakshmipur,

two months or two months and a half in Begumganj, and altogether three times in the Sadar thana. Excepting outposts there are nine thanas in the Noakhali district, but Osman Ali was never posted to any thana except the four named above. He had also served long in the Sadar thana as a writer constable and a head-constable. No one can say why Osman Ali has been kept at one place for so long a time.

On the 9th April last, Osman Ali, by the order of the District Superintendent of Police, made over charge of the Sadar thana to another officer, and has gone to take charge of the Lakshmipur thana, only 22½ miles distant from the Noakhali town. He has, for the present, gone away from the town, but is unwilling to remain at Lakshmipur. Can anybody explain why Osman Ali has been so suddenly transferred?

The following are the opinions expressed in some cases by Magistrates against Osman Ali:—

(1) By Babu Jagat Chandra Basu, a former Deputy Magistrate of Noakhali Sadar, in the case of *Empress versus Ganu Mea*, under sections 380 and 411, Indian Penal Code:—

"The Sub-Inspector should not have sent up this boy for trial at all. The extraordinary eagerness of the Sub-Inspector to send up the accused in this case also appears from the fact that one Abdul Rahaman was sent up, but a report was afterwards submitted to the effect that the name of Abdul Rahaman was included in the A Form through mistake. This is a curious mistake and put Abdul Rahaman to needless trouble. I therefore cannot but characterise the action of the Sub-Inspector as discreditable. I discharge Ganu Mea under section 253, Criminal Procedure Code."

(2) By Babu Asutosh Banerji, present Deputy Magistrate of Noakhali Sadar, in the case of *Empress versus Mahesh Chandra Guha*, under section 411, Indian Penal Code:—

"There are circumstances, no doubt, which cast a good deal of suspicion on the conduct of the investigating police officer (Osman Ali) and Kailaschandra Deb, the head-clerk of the police office here, who are witnesses for the prosecution."

(3) By Babu Sarat Chandra Sen Gupta, a former Deputy Magistrate, in the case of *Hamidali Chaukidar versus Seraj-ul-Huq*, sections 379 and 411, Indian Penal Code:—

"The charge against the first Sub-Inspector of Police, Osman Ali, is a serious one, and I think it ought to be a matter of special enquiry at least for his reputation. Should it be found that he has local landed interest that bring him into occasional conflict with the people under his jurisdiction, the District Magistrate, I doubt not, will take necessary steps for the utilization of his services elsewhere. It is unnecessary for me to go into the real truth about it by calling for evidence for defence on this point merely, as the case for the prosecution has utterly broken down, and does not appear to me to have any foundation in truth. I discharge the accused under section 253, Criminal Procedure Code."

Besides the above, in a case of incendiarism in Feni, the Sub-Inspector having submitted a C Form, and the Subdivisional Officer not being satisfied with the investigation in the case, himself made an enquiry into the matter, and committed the accused to the Sessions, where he was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. In this case the Deputy Magistrate made very trenchant remarks against the Sub-Inspector. And in the nine cases of illicit manufacture of salt mentioned in Mr. Pennell's judgment, the present Subdivisional Officer of Feni wanted to commit the Sub-Inspector for trial under section 211, Indian Penal Code. Again, in the case of the theft of a cow disposed of by Babu Upendra Mohan Sen on the 12th April last, the Deputy Magistrate passed severe strictures against the Sub-Inspector and sent the judgment to Mr. Cargill, District Magistrate.

The authorities should send for the record of the cases mentioned above, and see from them how Osman Ali has all along conducted himself in Noakhali. It is no wonder that Mr. Pennell thought fit to pass the severest strictures against this man, his *dharma-bap*, the head-clerk of the Police office, and their protector Mr. Reily.

RANGPUR
DIKPRAKASH,
April 18th, 1901.

12. A correspondent of the *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Kakina, Rangpur] of the 18th April, writing from Brahmanikunda, complains that Babu Raghu Nandan Rao, Sub-Inspector of the Kaliganj outpost, in various ways ill-treated the census enumerators and supervisors, who were rendering gratuitous service to the Government, and were, therefore, entitled to better treatment at the hands of the police. In one or two instances, the Sub-Inspector failed to get the work done by following that method, and was himself subjected to rude treatment.

The prevalence of theft in this part of the country led the writer some time ago to point out the inefficiency of the Kaliganj police, and this so displeased the Sub-Inspector that he threatened with punishment the residents of Brahmanikunda generally and Babu Rohinikanta Bhaduri, in particular, whom he suspected to be the correspondent. The Sub-Inspector is not only unjust, but is also extremely rude as a police officer.

HITAVADI,
April 19th, 1901.

13. Referring to the case in which two constables of the Kandi police in the Murshidabad district were charged with having committed an assault on a mukhtar, and which was at last withdrawn on the constables making an apology to the complainant, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th April says: The result of the trial has not satisfied us. The constables apologised because the complainant was an influential man. Will not the police authorities take steps to protect the weak against high-handed policemen? The constables ought to be departmentally punished for their conduct, which was unworthy of policemen.

NAVAYUG,
April 20th, 1901.

14. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 20th April says that, on the 14th April last, a constable arrested a drunkard who was making a great row in Maniktolla Street, but let him off after a few minutes for some unknown reason. On being asked by a gentleman why he had released the drunkard, the constable abused and insulted him.

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 22nd, 1901

15. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 22nd April says that, according to the official estimate, there was a gathering of about three lakhs of people at Langalbund this year on the occasion of the *astami* bathing festival. As usual, this year, too, some 10 or 12 women were kidnapped from the *mela*. The police arrangements were satisfactory, but the action of the police and medical officers in leaving the place as soon as the bathing was over was highly objectionable.

DACCA GAZETTE.

16. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 22nd April has the following in English:—

Mr. Tucker, District Superintendent of Police, Dacca.

Nothing affords us greater pleasure than to have to say a good word about our *Huzurs*, and it is with extermie pleasure we note that Mr. Tucker, our District Superintendent of Police, leaves this place on leave as a very popular officer. Generally, the police officers are fond of *suburdust* and *zulum*, but in Mr. Tucker we find an exception. His kind condescension towards his subordinates and his civility in dealing with the public have justly won for him a good reputation, which will survive for a long time to come.

PRATIVASI,
April 22nd, 1901.

17. A correspondent of the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April requests the authorities to have the recent murder case in Swarupnagar, in the Baduria thana of the 24-Parganas district, investigated by a competent detective officer, as the local police have failed to trace all the murder cases which have occurred in that part of the country within the last four and five years. The case has created a panic, as it was a most cold-blooded murder.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
April 24th, 1901.

18. The *Medini Bandhan* [Midnapore] of the 24th April says that theft is rife in Midnapore town. On the night of the 16th April, a theft was committed in the house of one Umes Chandra Basu in the town. Due information was lodged in the police-station the next morning, but the Inspector came to the spot on the following Saturday and returned only after inspecting a window which had been broken by the thieves. The police-station

is very close to Umes Babu's house, and it is surprising that the Inspector was so late in coming to inspect the place.

19. The same paper says that the levy of the chaukidari-tax in villages is attended with great oppression. The great majority of villagers are poor and do not admit the necessity of having chaukidars to guard their houses, but even the poorest widows in villages are forced to pay ten or twelve annas per year for this service. Great *zulum* is done by the *panchayats* in realising the tax. The chaukidars, however, seldom go out on their rounds, and when they do go out at night, not unoften they themselves steal articles belonging to the villagers. All this has convinced people that the chaukidar exists, not for their benefit, but for rendering service to the Government as the village watch. Under these circumstances, either there should be no chaukidars, or there should be no chaukidari-tax.

MEDINI BANDHAY,
April 24th, 1901.

20. The same paper says that, on the night of the 18th April, a fearful dacoity was committed in the house of one Mahendra Nath Bene, in village Narajo-Dubrajpur, in the Midnapore district, and his mother and sister were scorched by the dacoits with torches. The case is being investigated by the Daspur police. There is a rumour that Rakhal Das Ghorai and Trailakya Sinha, *alias* Gupi Ghorai, belonging to the Singargarh village police, and five or six of their relatives, are implicated in the dacoity. Rakhal and Gupi are notorious *badmishes*. But is the police aware of all this?

MEDINI BANDHAY.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

21. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 16th April has the following:—

Heavy punishment for light offence.

Since the execution of the thief in the story who had been convicted of stealing some kitchen vegetables such strange administration of justice as was witnessed in the following case was never heard of:—Raj Chundra Seal and Nitai Bhuimali, of the village of Deuli, within the jurisdiction of the Patuakhali thana, were charged with bathing in the "Reserve Tank" of the village belonging to the District Board. They were sentenced by the Assistant Magistrate to rigorous imprisonment for one week and a fine of Rs. 5 each. An appeal being preferred before the District Magistrate, he kindly ordered the accused persons to be enlarged on bail. If illiterate villagers, failing to appreciate the sanctity of reserve tanks established by a civilised nation, bathe there and for that offence are sent to jail, how should the offence of kicking the natives with boots, which is so frequent, be punished?

BIKAS,
April 16th, 1902.

22. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 17th April says that the way in which Babu Jadu Nath Chatterjea, the Deputy Magistrate of Kalna, disposes of his daily work in Court causes a great deal of inconvenience to the public. He does not receive applications every day, neither has he any fixed date or time for receiving them.

PALLIVASI,
April 17th, 1901.

23. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 18th April says that the 2nd Munsif of Patia, in the Chittagong district, does not allow his subordinates leave even on gazetted holidays. If work falls into arrears through their own default, he will be certainly justified in compelling them to work day and night, or if they be incompetent, he may dismiss them. But to refuse them authorised holidays on the ground that arrears have gone on accumulating for the last 10 or 15 years is extremely unjust.

JYOTI,
April 18th, 1901.

24. The same paper has the following complaints against the Munsifs of the Patia subdivision in the Chittagong district:—

Complaints against some Munsifs in the Chittagong district.

(1) The Munsifs generally begin their Court work even so late as to 2 P. M., and work till late in the evening. This causes great inconvenience to pleaders and litigants coming from distant places. In his last quarterly report, the Sessions Judge of the district severely censured this irregularity on the part of the Munsifs.

JYOTI.

Sometimes they come very early, and strike off cases on the ground of the absence of parties and their pleaders.

(2) Papers have been lost from the records of the Second Munsif's Court, and persons suspected have been transferred and one of them dismissed. But is not the Second Munsif also responsible for the loss of the papers?

(3) Section 182 of the Civil Procedure Code says that the evidence of witnesses "shall be taken down in writing, in the language of the Court, and shall be read in the presence of the parties or their pleaders, and the Judge shall, if necessary, correct the same." But none but the First Munsif follows this rule. Sometimes their peshkars read the evidence, as taken down by the Court, but it is seldom heard by the parties or their pleaders.

HITAVADI,
April 19th, 1901.

25. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th April says that the case in which a European driver recently kicked a native fireman and broke his teeth has been compromised between the parties in the Court of the Deputy Magistrate of Hooghly. The breaking of teeth amounts to the offence of causing grievous hurt and is thus non-compoundable. So the Deputy Magistrate was not right in allowing the case to be compromised. The matter would probably have ended differently had the defendant been a native.

Compromise of a non-compoundable case.

HITAVADI.

26. The same paper says that the want of court-fee stamps of the values of one anna, four annas and eight annas, in the Kushtia subdivision in the Nadia district since March last, has put litigants to great inconvenience and loss. The judicial officers of the place, although earnestly prayed, take no care to procure such stamps. Quite recently some men have procured these stamps from other places and are selling them at exorbitant prices. This unlawful act is being done in broad daylight under the nose of the police and the Munsifs of the subdivision.

Want of court-fee stamps in the Kushtia subdivision of the Nadia district.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
April 19th, 1901.

27. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 19th April writes as follows:—
The appeal in the Noakhali murder case and Mr. Reilly's motion for a transfer of his case have been disposed of. Will it not now be right to hold a public trial of Mr. Pennell? When he had unjustly ordered the transportation of two men and passed capital sentence on a third, and had, moreover, abused the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor and the High Court Judges, why should he be let off scot-free merely because he is a European? To our thinking he ought to be properly tried and adequately punished for his offences. But whether Government brings any charge against him or not, there cannot be the least doubt, in view of the remarks made by both Mr. Amir Ali and Mr. Pratt, that he is quite unfit to discharge the sacred functions of a Judge. Why should then Government waste two thousand and five hundred rupees every month on the maintenance of such an incompetent man in the responsible and honourable post of a Sessions Judge? Mr. Pennell himself should, if he has the least sense of self-respect, resign Government service and try to earn an independent livelihood.

Mr. Pennell

BANGAVASI,
April 20th, 1901

28. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th April says, with reference to the case of attempted outrage on a Hindu widow while walking through a lane to visit a female friend, that *parda-nashin* ladies are in the habit of visiting their neighbours on foot during solitary hours. The Northern Division Magistrate, before whom the case came up for hearing, might have examined the complainant in her *palanquin* as prayed for by her pleader instead of ordering her presence in Court.

Bringing a *parda-nashin* lady in Court.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 20th, 1901.

29. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 20th April does not understand why Mr. Abdur Rahim, Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta, held, in a case lately tried by him, that a woman who is in the habit of walking out of her house is not a *parda-nashin*. Mr. Abdur Rahim ought to know that women who walk to the Ganges to bathe and to temples to offer worship there, do not cease to be regarded by society as *parda-nashins*. Mr. Abdur Rahim should respect the customs of this country.

Mr. Abdur Rahim's conception of a *parda-nashin* woman.

30. The same paper says that Mr. Justice Amir Ali has set aside one by one all the judgments passed by Mr. Pennell as District Judge of Noakhali. He has discharged the accused in the Sivatarra case, and thereby wounded the feelings of the Hindu community. He has also discharged the accused in the Noakhali murder case, whom Mr. Pennell convicted. He has tried his best to conceal the fault of the police. How far Justice Amir Ali has decided these cases in a straightforward manner may be understood from the fact that the Judge, who is now in the Noakhali Sessions Court, has severely remonstrated against the conduct of the Noakhali police, whom Justice Amir Ali has praised so much in his judgement. The new Noakhali Judge has also found fault with Mr. Reily, the District Superintendent of Police and also with the present Magistrate of that place.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 20th, 1901.

31. The same paper says that the Calcutta High Court has lost its prestige by its ill-treatment of Mr. Pennell. It was unbearable to the Chief Justice that Mr. Reily should remain in *hajrat*. He did not care about his position, and did not also care to see whether Mr. Reily was really guilty or not. He sympathized so deeply with Mr. Reily that before he got any application from him, he at once wired to Mr. Pennell to release him from *hajrat*. For a Chief Justice nothing can be more humiliating than conduct like this.

BHARAT MITRA.

32. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 21st April writes as follows:—

However ill might those who suffer under British rule think of it, it never before transpired that the authorities were actuated by any bad motive in carrying on the administration of the country. But the way in which the Government and the High Court have been recently conducting themselves in certain matters have thrown discredit on British rule.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 21st, 1901.

The murder case, which was tried by Mr. Pennell, was at first attempted to be hushed up by the police. Although in the High Court Messrs. Amir Ali and Pratt have acquitted two of the accused persons, and ordered a retrial of the principal accused, Sadak Ali, the fact remains that a subject of His Majesty was murdered at Noakhali by somebody. The police had at first quite hushed up the case, and it was only through the ability of a certain police officer, acting under the special orders of a conscientious Magistrate, that the case was proved. It transpired from the evidence that it was due either to the shortcoming or the machination of the police that the offenders had eluded punishment.

Cases of theft, dacoity, murder and abduction of women are constantly occurring in the country. People naturally credit the Government with a desire to put down these crimes, and are well aware that Government is spending crores of rupees every year in the maintenance of the police, the magistracy and the law courts, with no other than that object. But it is hardly necessary to point out that no crime can be brought home to its perpetrator if the police purposely conceals the crime. The Magistrates can, it is true, prevent this; but if they too connive at the faults of the police, there remains absolutely no hope of bringing criminals to justice. The judiciary can only proceed on the evidence which is sent up by the police and the Magistrates. If the police and the committing Magistrates do not send up the real witnesses, no conviction can be had in the case. It is generally impossible for the higher authorities to detect the minute details which the police may use either to prove a case or not to prove it, as they will. But, if in any case those details come accidentally to the knowledge of the higher authorities and still the latter do not check the police but on the contrary encourage them in their evil career, then it will not be difficult for the police to bring about a destruction of British rule by letting off, from interested motives, the real offenders in all cases and thereby setting a premium on the commission of crime of all sorts. That all serious crimes have, as a matter of fact, increased in the country owing to this cause, is well known to every native, although it may not be known to our foreign rulers who are ignorant of the real condition of the country. An impression has indeed gained ground in the public mind that any wicked man who can keep the police in good humour by bribes can

commit any crime with impunity and can erect a fortune for himself on the ruin of thousands of his fellow countrymen. As a matter of fact, wicked men are rapidly getting rich in this way. We do not wish to say here anything about the way in which police officers on small salaries become rich. But we are merely pointing out, at great personal risk, the manner in which wicked men become rich either through the favour or the remissness of the police and the Magistrate. But as Government turns a deaf ear to our representations, good administration of the country is impossible.

Thanks to Mr. Pennell, an opportunity has presented itself of showing to the civilised world how formidably the Government and the High Court themselves are partial to the police. The attempts of the authorities to conceal their faults are only making them guilty. From the manner in which Government has attempted to make light of the murder case in which the Crown itself is the prosecutor, and the manner in which the Government Advocate, Mr. Leith, conducted the case in the High Court, people have come to entertain serious misgivings about the Government's sense of justice. By its conduct, Government is understood to say:—

"Let thousands of murders be committed; let millions of women be outraged, and let tens of millions of men be ruined to make a handful of men rich!!!—Government has no objection to all this; what it objects to is the proving of those facts." It would be idle for us to appeal to justice, if such is the wish of Him at whose will millions of puny creatures like ourselves may be annihilated.

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 22nd, 1901.

33. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 22nd April has the following:—

Complaints against the Deputy
Magistrate of Chandpur.

It is nearly ten months since Mr. Vas came to Chandpur as Deputy Magistrate, but he has gained some notoriety even within this short period.

Immediately after his assumption of office, the public came to learn that he was in the habit of using discourteous language towards the *mukhtars* and the parties. A Muhammadan resident of a certain village not far from Chandpur, having failed to pay his land revenue in time, Mr. Vas sent for him and made him row his boat. Being unaccustomed to rowing, the poor man had to suffer a good deal and was not let off until he had paid up the arrear of revenue. In another place Mr. Vas is said to have gone with a loaded pistol to realise arrears of rent, but being informed that the arrears had been paid up, he fired the pistol at the top of a tree. We have learnt from reliable sources that when he gets annoyed with witnesses, he occasionally orders them to stand on one leg.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
April 22nd, 1901.

34. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April is sorry that the

The Magistrate of Benares and
the Editor of the *Kalidas* news-
paper

Magistrate of Banares has at last refused to enlarge on bail the Editor of the *Kalidas* newspaper. It is said that the Magistrate had a mind to enlarge the Editor, but the local District Superintendent of Police dissuaded him from doing so. He said to the Magistrate that the Editor had taken part in the late Puna rising.

PRATIVASI,
April 22nd, 1901.

35 The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April takes strong objection to

Mr. Amir Ali, Judge of the
High Court.

Mr. Justice Amir Ali's taunting remark on the Bengali Babu in the case in which a Municipal street-watering cooly appealed against the sentence which had been passed against him by the Joint-Magistrate of Alipore on the charge that he had drenched a European lady while watering a street, and says that Mr. Amir Ali's insight into human nature must be very meagre when he could believe that a Uriya lad of 15 had the audacity to wilfully drench a European lady in spite of her prohibition. It is a wonder that the Hindu public have quietly pocketed this unwarranted taunt from the Judge.

Mr. Amir Ali's remarks and decisions from the Bench have not lately been of such a nature as to encourage good feeling between Hindus and Musalmans. His decision and remarks in the Noakhali Sivatar case have greatly agitated the Hindu community.

It is inexcusable in a Judge to arrive at a wrong conclusion and then to pass remarks based on such a conclusion.

36. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 23rd April has the following:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 23rd, 1901.

Mr. Pennell.

In his strong determination to be just, Mr. Pennell did not look to his own interests. But at the same time it must be admitted that he failed to maintain the dignity of his position. All that he wrote in his judgment might be true, but he ought to have remembered that an unpleasant truth is not liked by any one. There are many unpleasant and irrelevant things in his judgment for which he has been censured by the High Court and suspended by Government. Mr. Pennell might feel sorry at his suspension, but considering the reception accorded to him by the people of Noakhali, he has very little reason to be so. Who is to solve the mystery that the man who has been suspended by Government and whose judgment has been set aside by the High Court, is nevertheless so much honoured by the people?

37. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 24th April, referring to the censure of Mr. Pennell by the High Court, writes as follows:—

PRABHAT,
April 24th, 1901.

The High Court in the Noakhali murder case.

What the Hon'ble Justices have said had already been said by us too. We have never attempted to ignore Mr. Pennell's faults or shortcomings. But we have one thing to ask. It is true Mr. Pennell incorporated many documents in his judgment in violation of the law of evidence, but is not the telegram sent to him by the Chief Justice also of the same nature? Neither of the Judges ventured to utter a single syllable against that telegram. None ever expected that they would do so; for those days are gone when Sir Barnes Peacock and Justice Dwarka Nath Mitter used to be engaged in hot discussion with each other in open Court, and when at last convinced by Justice Mitter, Sir Barnes Peacock used to express his admiration of the extraordinary genius of his colleague. We are pained to see the present condition of the High Court when we think of the past. How far the individual Judges are independent is not unknown to anybody. The Judges fell fiercely upon Mr. Pennell, but could they not speak a word against the Chief Justice? It cannot be said that the Chief Justice had nothing to do with the case. His telegram itself is a proof of his interference.

38. The same paper has the following:—

Race distinction in the administration of justice.

Such is the atmosphere of India that in a case of complaint by a European against a native, the magnitude of the offence and the attendant circumstances are not taken into consideration at all. If a white man kills a native, he is simply let off with a nominal fine. But if a native raises his hand against a European, ever so lightly, he is sent to jail; and it is a matter of great good fortune for us that the Indian Penal Code does not provide capital punishment for such an offence. Heavy punishment for a light offence may be consistent with law, but it is by no means just. If such punishments are really justified by law and equity, why is a distinction made between European and native offenders? Can the Judges point to any provision of the law justifying such distinction? Recently a case to the point came up before the Magistrate of Alipore. A Uriya servant of the Calcutta Municipality was watering the Russa Road near Tollygunge, when a European lady, named Mrs. King, was driving along the road. Unfortunately the water from the pipe wetted her clothes, and the Uriya was arrested at once and charged before the Magistrate with wilfully wetting the lady. The accused deposed on oath that he did not do it intentionally, but that several carts laden with straw screened the lady's carriage from his view. This is most likely true. The poor Uriya could not presumably have such boldness, nor could his temptation to indulge in a piece of humour get so strong as to insult in that manner an English lady in broad daylight in a public thoroughfare. It may be asked if the Uriya had any grudge against the lady. Clearly he had none, because no such question was raised in Court at all. But Mr. Panton, the trying Magistrate, disbelieved the Uriya and sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment for ten days. Is this administration of justice or a judicial farce?

PRABHAT.

39. The same paper referring to the reception of Mr. Pennell at

PRABHAT.

Mr. Pennell.

Noakhali, says that he was garlanded and cheered amidst the deafening sounds of bombs. His carriage was then drawn by respectable residents of Noakhali. Perhaps the

District Judge and the District Magistrate were not present on the spot. It seems that the feeling between the rulers and the ruled will go on developing in this way. It behoves Government to ponder on the fact that whoever loses its favour is honoured by the people.

(d)—Education.

MEDINI BANDHAB,
April 17th, 1901.

40. The *Medini Bandhab* [Midnapore] of the 17th April says that the Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, Midnapore, while inspecting the vernacular schools, put questions to most of the head pandits before the pupils, and they were obliged to answer those questions for fear of losing their posts. It is very improper to put questions to the teachers before their pupils, and the Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, Midnapore, would do well to give up the objectionable practice.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 19th, 1901.

41. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 19th April thanks Mr. Pedler for having sanctioned the closing of the Calcutta Presidency College this year earlier than usual on account of the plague. Every year it is seen that the plague becomes most virulent in the month of March, and subsides in the month of June. Considering this, the educational authorities should not permit the holding of the Calcutta University examinations in the month of March.

HITAVADI,
April 19th, 1901.

42. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th April says that those students of the Bankipore Temple Medical School who left the town for fear of the plague and were thus unable to attend school, have been fined and prevented from appearing in examinations this year. This has caused them great loss and has obliged many of them to give up their studies for good.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

CHARU MIHIR,
April 16th, 1901.

43. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th April has the following:—

Water scarcity in Bengal.

It appears that water scarcity prevailed everywhere in Bengal last year. In many places, not only water for the use of men, but even water for the use of cattle is not to be found. No serious attempt is being made to remove this water scarcity. The Hon'ble Mr. Baker remarked in the Bengal Council that it was not possible for Government to supply water to every household, and that this want would not be removed unless the people learnt to help themselves; if the raiyats gave their labour and the zamindars helped them with money, then this water scarcity might be removed to some extent. The poor raiyats will not praise Government for sympathy and kindness when they will hear of this remark. They have to earn their livelihood and support their families by working as day-labourers, and Mr. Baker could never have made this cruel remark if he had only considered what would become of their families if these day-labourers were to employ their labour in removing water scarcity. Efforts of one or two charitable zamindars will not remove this universal want. Moreover, since the imposition of the road cess, the zamindars do not hold themselves responsible for the supply of water to their raiyats. It would rather be hard for a man if he were made to pay over and over again for the same purpose. The District Boards, saddled as they are with the burden of famine relief, in most cases fail to spend as much money as they ought to do in removing water scarcity. It is improper to spend the proceeds of the road cess for famine-relief purposes. Some of the District Boards do not spend their annual allotment for water-supply, on the ground that lands for the excavation of tanks cannot be had. Yet Mr. Baker says no arrangements can be made for acquiring lands.

PALLIVASI,
April 17th, 1901.

44. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 17th April says that both in railways and steamers the third class passengers are allowed to carry luggage up to the limit of 15 seers free of charge. But the lessee of the ferry at Kalna does not make the concession. If the District Collector issues an order fixing

the quantity of luggage which may be carried by the passengers free of charge they may be saved from the indignities which they now suffer at the hands of the ferrymen.

45. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 19th April regrets that, in its resolution on the working of the municipalities in Bengal, the Government has censured the Commissioners of the Hooghly Municipality for mismanagement of municipal affairs and want of a proper system of work. Mr. Faulder, the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, says that the cause of this mismanagement is the party feeling which prevails among the Municipal Commissioners. But according to the writer it is malaria that has scared and is still scaring away people from Hooghly town, with the result that the number of rate-payers within the municipality has decreased. This is the main cause of the decline of the Hooghly Municipality.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 19th, 1901.

46. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 20th April says that nowadays in Calcutta the supply of filtered water in the taps commences so late as 7 A.M. and stops as early as 9 A.M. This causes great hardship and inconvenience to the rate-payers—specially in this hot season.

NAVAYUG,
April 20th, 1901.

47. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 22nd April has the following in English:—

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 22nd, 1901.

Cholera in Dacca town.

A Timely Warning.—Cholera of a virulent type has broken out in the town. It is not yet of an epidemic character, but sporadic cases are being heard of all over. Not even Wari, the model *husti*, has been an exception. The outbreak has very closely followed the great *astami* bathing festival. So it happens every year. Is there any cause and effect relation between these two? Apparently there is. The bathing festivities came off on 27th March last. One or two cases were heard of at that time, but did not attract much attention. On the bathing day there was a large gathering of people on the burning sands of Langal bund. The gathering of this year has been estimated at about 3 lakhs. The Brahmaputra has very little water in its old channel at this season. All these 3 lakhs of people were washing themselves in that shallow water and drinking the same whenever they wanted to drink. This state of things of itself can bring about an outbreak, as it has been doing for a pretty long time. But this year the water scarcity has been very great in the interior. People coming from the interior, exposing themselves to the burning heat of the sun, drinking filth for water and living upon melons and fruits for the whole day, developed cholera symptoms. These people have carried germs everywhere. It is quite possible that cholera germs meeting with such favourable conditions were developing themselves in the wells and such other favourite haunts of those *bacilli*. Then came the bathing festivities and the fatigue and exposure and drinking liquid filth in the name of water consequent thereon. These served as aggravating causes. It is for this that the first victims in large numbers are to be met with among the bathers.

But people who had nothing to do with bathing have been attacked also. Then there has been very little rain. Everything is dry, and how much of cholera poison is being disseminated by the dust and flies cannot be ascertained. The clouds came tantalizing, but the showers do not deserve that name. From all these symptoms and from our past experience we have a right to infer that the outbreak is not to subside early in the season. What preventive measures are being adopted by the Municipality? Here and there some sulphur has been burnt or coal-tar and diluted phenyle has been sprinkled. With such half-hearted measures an outbreaking epidemic can never be grappled with. Let disinfection be carried on, in a thorough manner, in every afflicted locality. We are prepared to give a piece of advice *gratis*, and believe that this advice, though given *gratis*, will benefit the public. Let every householder burn some sulphur in his compound or anywhere else whence smoke of sulphur may spread everywhere in his holding, and let him throw some quantity of quicklime into his well without any delay whatever. No green fruits ought to be eaten, and the milk ought to be well boiled *several times* before being used. The evacuations ought to be burnt and into the fire, in an afflicted house, every now and then some small pieces of sulphur ought to be thrown. In an afflicted

house quicklime ought to be scattered in small quantities everywhere, and water ought to be sprinkled over there. Cannot the Municipal authorities undertake to disinfect *every* well in an afflicted quarter once every week with lime and permanganate of potash instead of burning a little sulphur here and there? Keep the water-supply as pure as possible. The wells are so close to the latrines that they must be disinfected at least twice a month. We give the warning in proper time. Grapple with the outbreak in its first stage and stamp it out. If neglected, it will continue until the rains set in and wash off all impurities.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
April 17th, 1901.

48. The Diamond Harbour correspondent of the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 17th April complains that Krishna Dayal Babu, Deputy Collector of the subdivision, made out certificates for arrears of rent against certain persons who never occupied any land in the Government khas mahal, and caused even processes for the attachment of moveable property to issue against them, and had the demand realised by the sale of such property. In some cases the Deputy Collector simultaneously made certificates, issued notices and processes for attachment, and had the demands realised with costs even before a decree had been passed on the certificate. In some cases, again, he filed certificates against the relatives of deceased tenants, and had the arrears of rent realised by the sale of the moveable property of such relatives. In a certain case, the raiyat opposed the attachment of his property on the ground that the period for which the process of attachment was to remain in force had expired, but the Deputy Collector punished the man. On an appeal to the High Court, however, the sentence was quashed. Raja Peary Mohan Mukharji had paid the rent for the *Aswin kist* of the Bengali year 1307. But a certificate was subsequently filed against him for the recovery of the same *kist* and the demand was realised. A similar mistake has occurred in the case of many others.

It is probably on the representation of the same Deputy Collector that Government has advanced loans to the raiyats to the extent of twelve or thirteen thousand rupees, and has made a gift of four to five thousand rupees to them in view of the failure of crops. It is therefore all the more strange that the same Deputy Collector has now filed sixteen hundred certificates against the same raiyats.

The Deputy Collector filed certificates against two hundred raiyats of the Kadwa estate, No. 432, before the expiry of the year 1307, for rent due on account of the same year, and attached both their moveable and immoveable property. Fifty-seven raiyats have filed objections against the illegal action of the Deputy Collector, and has memorialised the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Editor remarks that it is not the Deputy Collector but the Government who must be held responsible for the oppressions which are being committed upon the khas mahal tenants. It is, however, in the power of the Deputy Collector to spare the raiyats such unnecessary trouble and harassment as are caused by the realization of the same rent twice over and similar acts, and generally so to carry out the orders of Government as to cause as little trouble to the raiyats as possible.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

JYOTI.
April 18th, 1901.

49. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 18th April complains of mismanagement in the steamer service of Messrs. David and Company in Cox's Bazar, in the Chittagong district. The fixed timing is not regularly followed, and sometimes the service is postponed for days. Recently the service has been stopped, and it is rumoured that it will not be resumed for some days to come. Loss will thus be caused both to private individuals and to Government. The Company receive a monthly subsidy of Rs. 325 from the Government.

50. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th April writes as follows:—

Irregularities in the Sitarampur station on the East Indian Railway.

(1) The ticket-room of the Sitarampur station on the East Indian Railway is opened only a few minutes before trains arrive at the station, and is closed just after their arrival, so that many fail to purchase tickets within that short time. This is a trick by which booking-clerks unlawfully obtain money from passengers. A former booking-clerk of the station took in this way one rupee from a passenger, who then informed the station-master of the matter. But the case was hushed up.

(2) There is an overbridge over the line at the Sitarampur station for passengers to pass from the up to the down platform. On the bridge there is a cabin for the station-master and the signaller on duty. Just before trains arrive at the station, the station-master, with four or five other men, indulges in such boisterous mirth on the bridge as to frighten even male passengers to say nothing of females.

(3) The train leaving Barakar at 3 A.M. enters the Sitarampur station by a line somewhat distant from the platform, and is then conducted to the side of the platform only a moment before its departure. On account of this, many passengers, and sometimes even the mail bag, are left behind.

(4) The European station- and assistant station-masters of the Sitarampur station turn a deaf ear to all complaints which nigger beasts (for it is in this light that these white men regard natives) bring before them. A case may be cited. On the night of the 2nd April last, the local mail peons were resting, according to the established practice, by the side of the booking-office of the station, when the booking-clerk, ticket-collector and a number-taker of the station used abusive words towards them and beat them off from their seats. On hearing this, the clerk of the local post office went to the station-master to complain against the conduct of his subordinates, but was very roughly treated by him.

(h)—General.

51. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 13th April has the following:—

Grievances of postal peons.

The income of the Postal Department has considerably increased, but the boat hire which the postal peons used to get in some of the lower districts of Bengal during the rainy season has been discontinued. The peons cannot afford to pay boat hire from their own pockets. So there is considerable difficulty in the delivery of letters during the rainy season. The Court peons are allowed boat hire by Government, and in addition obtain rewards from the parties, whenever they go to the mufassal to serve any processes. But the postal peons have no such source of income. The work in the Revenue, Money order and Savings Bank Departments is increasing daily, but there has been no increase in the number of clerks, nor any increase in the pay of old and experienced employes. They have to work hard till 8 P.M.

52. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 14th April has the following:—

Lord Curzon on the average income of an Indian.

From the report of the Famine Commission of 1898, Lord Curzon understands that the total income of the Indians amounts to Rs. 450 crores.

If this calculation be correct, then the average income per head, taking the population of India to be 298,266,701, would amount to Rs. 15, and not Rs. 20 as the Viceroy states. The figures representing the population as given by the Viceroy, viz, 223,000,000, do not agree with those given in the Census Report. Even if the population under the Native Chiefs were excluded, the figures would stand at 231,085,132. His Excellency could never have meant the agricultural population alone; for the latest census returns relating to the number of men following particular professions have not yet been prepared. Agriculture is the most profitable occupation in this country, and if the average income of an agriculturist amounts to Rs. 20, the average income of a man engaged in any other occupation must be considerably less. Except in Bengal proper, everywhere else the monthly income of a labourer being Rs. 3 only, his annual income can never exceed Rs. 36, which must be

HITAVADI,
April 19th, 1901.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 13th, 1901.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 14th, 1901.

considered to be the income of a labourer's family, which, on an average, is composed of no less than four members. Thus the annual income per head of the labouring class comes to Rs. 9 only. The Viceroy thinks that the average income is greater in the case of people following other professions than agriculture, and fixes it at Rs. 30 per head, which is obviously open to objection. It is said that while in 1880, 1,940 lakhs of acres were cultivated; at the present moment 2,170 lakhs of acres are under the plough. If, as stated by His Excellency, each acre yields 420 seers of food grains then every family of agriculturists, consisting of four members on an average to which one acre has been allotted by him, get 1,680 seers of food-grains per year. This gives an annual income of Rs. 105, even if the price of food-grains be taken at 16 seers per rupee. Now dividing Rs. 105 by four, the average income per head of a family of agriculturists becomes Rs. 26-4, which is highly improbable. If the agriculturists had received 450 crores of rupees as the price of food-grains, Government too could have realised at least one-sixth of the sum, i.e., 75 crores from land revenue alone. But Government, as a matter of fact, gets a land revenue of only 23 crores. And yet great dissatisfaction prevails in all those places where the Permanent Settlement is not in force on the ground that the land revenue demand is excessive. All this makes one question the accuracy of the official statistics relating to the total outturn of the crops.

If every acre were supposed to yield 420 seers, the total outturn of crops in India would be $420 \times 217,000,000$ or 91,140,000,000 seers. Excluding all babes and invalids from the total population there would remain about 200,000,000 people to consume that total outturn. In other words each individual would consume 450 seers in 365 days. This gives a rate of consumption per head of population which is far from correct, so far as the great majority of the Indians are concerned. Yet some part of India or other is never free from famine. It is therefore clear that the official estimates regarding the area under cultivation and the outturn of crops are erroneous. Such error is inevitable so long as Government rely on ignorant village *chaukidar* for agricultural and other statistics. We have repeatedly shown how Government is deceived by these *chaukidars* in various ways. These men, whose duty it is to prevent theft and dacoity, are in most cases directly or indirectly implicated in such crimes. If one educated man be appointed in the place of 8 or 10 such *chaukidars* on their aggregate pay and entrusted with the responsible work which they are now required to do, official reports will become more accurate and reliable and local and municipal affairs will be done more satisfactorily than at present.

MEDINI BANDHAR,
April 17th, 1901.

53. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 17th April has the following:—

Ministerial appointments in the
Judge's Court, Midnapore.

Babu Sri Krishna Basu having retired, Babu Golak Chunder Mukherjee, senior *Nazir* of the Midnapore Judge's Court, has been appointed as *Sarishtadar* in his place, and Babu Hiranya Kumar Banerjee, Translator of Purnea, has been appointed in the place of Golak Babu. We have no wish to question the ability of the new *Nazir*, but what we wish to ask is why have the ability and seniority of the local candidates been thus overlooked? If Siva Prasanna Babu, the local translator, and who is senior to Hiranya Babu, had been promoted to the post of *Nazir*, others would have been promoted in succession, and thus an apprentice also would have been provided for. The seed of arbitrariness lately sown by the District Judge with regard to the appointment of an English copyist in supersession to the claims of the local apprentices has now borne fruit. We request our kind-hearted District Judge to consider whether or no the present appointment to the post of *Nazir* has been a just one.

JYOTI,
April 18th, 1901.

54. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 18th April says that the work of the peon attached to the Patia post office in the Chittagong district is too heavy for one man to do properly. That is why people sometimes receive their letters even four or five days after delivery from the post office.

SANJIVANI,
April, 18th 1901.

55. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th April thanks the Bengal Government for the appointment of Babu Madhu Sudan Sen Gupta, Assistant Engineer of Jajpur, to the post of

Under-Secretary in the Public Works Department, an office which was not held by any native before.

56. The same paper says that though the Postal Department made a profit of Rs. 33,23,000 last year and is expected to make a profit of Rs. 22,00,000 this year, the pay of the

The pay of post-masters.

poor and hardworked post-masters is not increased. The post-masters in the mufassal, in particular, are paid too poorly to enable them even to live from hand to mouth, though their responsibilities are very great, and they have to handle large sums of public money. It would not be strange if necessitous men like these post-masters yielded to temptation and embezzled that money. The Government is, therefore, asked to increase the pay of these deserving public servants.

57. The same paper says that Government has now done justice to Mr.

Messrs. B. L. Gupta, K. G. Gupta and B. De.

B. L. Gupta, by temporarily appointing him as a High Court Judge, and to Mr. K. G. Gupta, by promoting him permanently to a Divisional Commissionership. It now remains for the Government to remove the injustice which has been so long done to Mr. B. De, by appointing him to a Commissionership. Messrs. Ritchie, Marriott, Faulder, Harris, Macpherson and Greenshields are all juniors to Mr. De, but have all of them superseded him. Is this just? If not to a Divisional Commissionership, he should be appointed at least to the Excise Commissionership. He is Mr. Earle's senior by many years; it will therefore be doing him a great injustice to overlook his claims and give the latter post to Mr. Earle. The writer is not asking any favour from the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor, but only wants them to be just.

58. Babu Kartik Chandra Halder, writing in the same paper from Noda,

Oppression by Salt Department men in Diamond Harbour.

in the 24 Parganas district, says that, on the 7th April last, he had occasion to go to the Sahara *hât*, within the jurisdiction of the Fultah thana, where he witnessed indescribable oppressions committed by the peons of the Salt Department. About half past 5 o'clock, twenty or twenty-five peons, armed with *lathis*, guns and daggers, surrounded the *hât* and seized and brought up shopkeepers and others. Babu Mati Lal Ghosal, Sub-Inspector of the Fultah thana, was an eye-witness of this oppression, the like of which was never before seen in British territory.

One Ghanasyam Mandal has brought a charge of assault against the Salt Sub-Inspector within whose jurisdiction this oppression was committed.

The people are suffering from scarcity this year, and over and above that they are being subjected to these oppressions by the Salt officers. Everybody is alarmed and fears that he may be subjected to oppression any moment. The daily visit of eight to ten armed peons to the Sahara *hât* has led to the closing of the *hât*, and the shopkeepers have submitted a petition to the Subdivisional Officer of Diamond Harbour.

The Editor hopes that both the District Magistrate and the Subdivisional Officer will, without delay, make an enquiry into the matter.

59. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th April says that Babu Govinda Lal

Unusually long service of a postal head-clerk in one department.

Dutta, head-clerk of the Appointment Department in the office of the Postmaster-General of Bengal, has been serving in that post for the last twenty-five or twenty-six years. As it is not right to keep a man in the same post for so long a period, Govinda Babu should be transferred to another Department, particularly when no postal servant is satisfied with his work.

60. The same paper says that nothing can be said about the twelve

The twelve questions under Lord Curzon's consideration.

momentous questions which at present chiefly engage the attention of the Viceroy until a more explicit and detailed account of them is published. But one thing is certain: the war policy of Lord Curzon is never to be approved.

61. Referring to the remark made by Mr. Baker in the Bengal Legislative

Mr. Baker on Government's duty in the prevailing water scarcity.

Council, to the effect that it is the native zamindars and rich men—and not Government—who are responsible for the removal of water scarcity in the country the *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 19th April asks whether Government will not supply its subjects

SANJIVANI,
April 18th, 1901.

SANJIVANI.

SANJIVANI.

HITAVADI,
April 19th, 1901.

HITAVADI

RANGALAYA,
April 19th, 1901.

with water when they are dying of thirst if the zamindars and the rich men of the country do not undertake to do it. The writer thinks that Mr. Baker did not comprehend the full significance of his words when he uttered them, but that he uttered them in the heat of argument.

It must be admitted that the native zamindars and rich men are almost blind to the duties which they owe to their country. But the duty of guiding and governing them rests with the Government. They believe that payment of subscriptions to the Lady Dufferin's Hospital Fund, the Victoria Memorial Fund, and similar funds which are patronised by the Government, will procure them titles and honours. If they could believe that they would receive titles and honours from the Government by excavating tanks and doing other works of public utility, many of the existing wants of the Indians would be supplied in no time.

BANGAVASI,
April 20th, 1901.

62. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th April has the following :—

Government aid to indigo-planters.

The Bengal Government has consented to spend Rs. 57,500 for one year at present for scientific investigation of the means for the improvement of indigo and sugar cultivation. There would have been no objection to this if Government had showed the same amount of anxiety for the preservation and revival of indigenous industries. Moreover, as no additional expenditure can be sanctioned, necessary curtailment must be made in some other direction, and in what direction it will be made is not yet known. Cannot Government take some immediate steps to prevent the water scarcity in the mufasal?

SARASWAT PATRA,
April 20th, 1901.

63. The *Saraswat Patra* [Dacca] of the 20th April writes as follows :—

Exodus to the hills.

We do not object to the practice of the highest officials in the land going to the hill in the season, although it entails additional expenditure and to some extent interferes with the due performance of the work of administration. The two Members of the Board of Revenue have now been granted this privilege of going to the hills. So far, so good; but let not the concession extend further. For, if a large number of European and Eurasian officers are permitted to leave the plains with the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor, the hills will be much crowded and consequently become hotbeds of disease.

PRATIVASI,
April 22nd, 1901.

64. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April says that the object of

The Resolution on appointment to the Public Works Department.

the Bengal Government Resolution on appointment to the Public Works Department is to give students of the Engineer and Apprentice Departments of the Sibpur Engineering College equal opportunities of securing appointments in the Public Works Department. Considering the difference in the systems on which the boys of the two Departments are respectively brought up, it is doubtful if it has been reasonable on the part of the Government to give them equal rights. However much Government may contend that the passed students of the Apprentice Department are more useful as practical Engineers than the students of the Engineer Department, there is no denying that the education of the former as Engineers is defective, because they are given no instruction in certain branches of the Engineering Science which are essential in an Engineer. And in prescribing subjects for the examination which will be held previous to admission into the service, Government has paid more attention to the education of the Apprentice Department students than to the education of the Engineer students.

It is not known whether the Resolution has any secret object or not, but it is clear that it will facilitate the admission of Eurasians into the Public Works Department. The educational capabilities of the Eurasian students are generally of a lower order than those of native students. The number of Eurasian students in the Engineer Department is, therefore, very small, but they enter the Apprentice Department in larger numbers. The Government Resolution will now enable them to enter the Upper Subordinate grade of the Public Works Department with great ease. If this is the object of the Resolution, then it is questionable how far Government has been right in sacrificing the interests of the highly educated native Engineer students to the interests of Eurasians. But, considering the open manner in which Government is nowadays promoting the interests of the Eurasian community, it is idle to expect that it will not show them special favour in the matter of giving employment.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

65. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 17th April says that the raiyats in the Sabang pargana of the Midnapore district are living on *arum*, in consequence of the scarcity of rice. The Maharaja of Burdwan and the Raja of Narajol, who are the zamindars of this pargana, should come forward to relieve the prevailing distress.

66. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th April reports the condition of the people of the following places within the Province of Bengal:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 17th, 1901.

SANJIVANI,
April 18th, 1901.

(1) KAMRUP.

Famine has become universal in Kamrup. The last census has shown the population of Kamrup as 40,000 less than that recorded by the previous one. Famine is the main cause of this decrease of population. The miseries of the people have been greatly increased by the enhancement of the Government revenue, and great oppression is committed on them in the work of realising it. The writer cites cases of families which were only two or three years ago well-to-do and prosperous, but are now starving almost to death. On the whole, the condition of the people in general has been such as must bring tears in the eyes of every observer. Government must do something now, or thousands of people will soon die of starvation.

(2) MANIKGANJ, DACCA.

The *chaitali* paddy-crop has proved a failure, and the prospects of other crops also are not hopeful. Rice is being sold at over Rs. 4 per maund. The condition of the people is becoming very sad day by day.

(3) TANGAIL, MYMENSINGH.

There is no rain here. The value of rice has risen to Rs. 6 per maund. The condition of the people has become extremely miserable. A widow has committed suicide seeing starvation imminent before her children.

(4) NETRAKONA, MYMENSINGH.

Famine has assumed a very fearful aspect within this subdivision. The cause of this is the failure of crops, year after year, on account of the failure of timely rains. There is a river near the village of Majaffarpur, which dries up in the month of *Kartik*. If this river can be made to flow throughout the year by joining it with the neighbouring river, then the failure of crops in the adjoining fields may be prevented by irrigating them from it. The condition of the people of some twenty or twenty-five villages has become extremely miserable. Famished people are living on vegetables and even grass. Money-lenders refuse to lend money. Diseases, which are the offspring of famine, are killing by hundreds. Small thefts have increased. Paupers have filled the locality.

67. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 24th April says that the condition of the majority of the inhabitants of the villages within the Ghatal subdivision of the Midnapore district has become extremely miserable owing to failure of crops during the last three years. Malaria, small-pox and other epidemics are raging in these villages and snatching away the earning members of many poor families. Over and above this the *chaukidari*-tax has become a source of great oppression to the villagers. The number of *chaukidars* in each village has been increased from two to six, and there are two *samandars* also. That there has been so large an increase in the wealth of the villagers that an increase in the number of *chaukidars* has been thereby rendered necessary is something that is perfectly inconceivable. The villagers petitioned the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject, and by his order the local Magistrate came on a visit of inspection. But as he could not rely

MEDINI, BANDHAV,
April 24th, 1901.

on what the respectable villagers told him, and only believed what the *pan-chayats* said about the condition of the villages, the petition led to no result. There is not a single tank containing good and drinkable water in these villages. If the "*Sonadiga*" tank is re-excavated, it will go a long way to relieve the water scarcity which prevails in the locality.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SANSODHINI,
April 12th, 1901.

68. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 12th April says that it is rumoured that the Chittagong Hospital Committee has decided upon the removal of the local cholera hospital from its present building to the vicinity of the Local General Hospital. If the existing cholera hospital building be sold, an idea which is favoured by the Hospital Committee, its purchaser will turn it to his own use, and thus undo the local memorial of the occasion on which it was built, namely, that of the *late* Queen's assumption of the title of Empress of India.

**FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,**
April 13th, 1901.

69. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 13th April has the following:—
The Victoria Memorial Hall. The Victoria Memorial Hall will be built on the *maidan* to the west of the Ochterlony monument, and it is proposed that portraits of all such Native rajas and millionaires, who might contribute Rs. 50,000 or upwards, should be preserved in the building. The proposal has enraged the European Editor of a Bombay newspaper, who says that if portraits of these barbarous Indian millionaires are placed near the statue of the *late* Queen-Empress, it will impair her glory, and so the proposal should be given up. But how to remove the heart-burning of this white-man? If he is to be satisfied, then nearly a crore of rupees subscribed by India in aid of the Memorial Hall must be given up, and it would not be possible to replace the sum by subscriptions collected in England. The statement that it would be putting an insult on the *late* Sovereign's memory if the portraits of those who have contributed towards the erection of the Hall were placed in that edifice, is perfectly unjustifiable.

The millionaires and Native chiefs of India are barbarians no doubt. For thousands of years they have witnessed the fact that though the white stream of the Ganges and the black stream of the Jumna meet at Allahabad, the water of each retains its distinctive colour—that the white does not blend with the black. They are receiving proofs of this every day, and yet they have paid lakhs of rupees for the prosecution of the China and South African wars in a most disinterested spirit and many of them have often gone to fight England's battles.

The subscriptions received from several foreign possessions amounted within a very short time to about a crore of rupees! What wonder if these donors, be they zamindars or rajas or *sardars*, appear as barbarians in the eyes of *khas* Englishman. It is a matter of regret that the new section 124A of the Indian Penal Code is not enforced against these Englishmen who look up to India for their livelihood. Who can say how many Europeans of this type, who hardly deserve to be called men, live in India at this moment?

BIKAS,
April 16th, 1901.

70. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 16th April has the following:—
How certain acts of Government are viewed by the public. The blunders committed by Government in many small matters are sometimes really deplorable. What a terrible law was prompted by the bugbear of sedition! An educated man and a well-wisher of the British Raj like Mr. Tilak was made to suffer all kinds of indignities which only increased his popularity. Then, again, Government has summarily suspended an upright and independent Judge like Mr. Pennell without hearing him. Are not these blunders on the part of Government? Acts like these, instead of producing loyalty in the hearts of the people, rather inspire them with hatred and surprise. It is strange that Government does not as yet see that its best friends are those who criticise its actions most freely.

URIYA PAPERS.

71. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 10th April is sorry to state that cholera, small-pox and fever are raging virulently in the Balasore town, and that some have already died of the same. It is stated that the virulence of the small-pox is quite unprecedented and swells the mortality of the unfortunate town.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
April 10th, 1901.

72. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 10th April is of opinion that every encouragement should be given to the students of the veterinary science, whose services are needed in every part of the country. The writer hopes that the Sibpur Veterinary school will be able to turn out the required number of such students.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 10th, 1901.

73. The *Samvadvaika* [Bamra] of the 11th April is gratified to find that the income of the Postal Department is increasing year after year, and suggests that steps may be taken to cheapen postal rates, to increase the strength and emoluments of the postal staff, and to establish post offices in backward parts of the country, where at present there are none.

SAMVADVAIKA,
April 11th, 1901.

74. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 13th April thanks the Bengal Government for having done justice to Mr. B. L. Gupta, who has been appointed to officiate as a Civilian Judge of the Calcutta High Court, and to Mr. K. G. Gupta, who has been appointed as a Commissioner of a Division. It is observed that these two acts of justice have endeared His Honour's name to the people of Bengal.

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 13th, 1901.

75. Referring to the notification publishing the names of the members of the Orissa School Text-Book Committee the same paper states that the appointments are good ones, and that all the members being residents of Cuttack business may proceed quicker.

UTKALDIPIKA.

76. The same paper is of opinion that the memory of the late Queen-Empress ought to find a permanent abode in Cuttack in the foundation of a Victoria Hall and a Victoria Library, and that these two institutions may be founded by the help of subscriptions and donations raised in Orissa, a portion of which may be remitted to Calcutta to help the work of the Metropolitan Memorial Committee in that capital of India.

UTKALDIPIKA.

77. Referring to the speech of His Excellency the Viceroy, wherein he advocated twelve important reforms in the administration of India, the same paper states that His Excellency is entitled to the thanks of the Indian community, though they cannot agree with him in holding that the poverty of the Indians is not increasing. The writer observes that His Excellency need not have been silent about the important fact that about 20 to 30 crores of rupees are going out of the Indian exchequer to the United Kingdom every year without any corresponding return.

UTKALDIPIKA.

ASSAM PAPERS.

78. The *Silchar* [Cachar] of the 13th April says that the importation of rice from Burma has slightly lowered its price, but the raiyats have neither food-grains in stock nor money to pay the Government revenue. So they wanted loans from Government. The then Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Howell, showed sympathy with the raiyats and forwarded their petition to the Chief Commissioner with favourable remarks of his own. In this petition they prayed for an exemption from liability to pay *talabana* in those cases in which the rent amounted to less than Rs. 10. But instead of granting their prayer, the Chief Commissioner ordered that no *talabana* would be levied from any one up to the 15th April. This has been of no use to the raiyats; for they have neither grains nor money and have no prospect of reaping fresh crops by that time. Many raiyats are selling their lands and cattle to keep body and soul together. Government has refused to

SILCHAR,
April 13th, 1901.

grant loans. How will the raiyats under these circumstances be able to pay their rents?

SILCHAR,
April 13th, 1901.

79. The same paper has the following:—

Distress in Silchar.

Most of the inhabitants of Silchar and the neighbouring places live on a single meal in the evening. The price of bamboo has fallen considerably. The raiyats are selling their cattle, as the next instalment of revenue was to have been paid on the 15th April. It would be well if loans were granted to the raiyats, and two instalments of revenue were taken at once. The other day a Manipuri woman of Ramnagore came weeping to a rice shop and said that she had been starving with her two children for two days. Rash Behari, the shop-keeper, gave her a quantity of rice and told her to pay for it when convenient. On another occasion a Hindu went to a Muhammadan of Badaripur village, named Arshad Ali Chowdhuri, and wanted something to eat, as he was starving for two days. He was then given a rupee and a quantity of rice.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 27th April, 1901.